

## I-5 – South 317<sup>th</sup> Street HOV Direct Access Project Update

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### Construction Update

Last week, workers poured grout pads on top of the S. 317<sup>th</sup> bridge supports. The bridge girders will rest on these grout pads. We're currently scheduled to set the girders next Thursday night (Feb. 10). Crews continue backfilling behind the first bridge support and building the retaining wall north of the second bridge support.

At Military Road, crews poured the concrete for the supports on which we'll build the additional bridge width. Along the southbound exit ramp to S. 320<sup>th</sup>, crews have been installing permanent drainage and temporary light poles, and we've finished installing shoring for the wall we're building on the left side of this ramp.

You can view the latest construction photos at  
[http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5\\_S317th\\_DirectAccess/photos/jan05.html](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/photos/jan05.html).

### Lane & Ramp Closures

Tonight through Thursday night (Feb. 1-3), we plan to close two northbound I-5 lanes near S. 320<sup>th</sup> Street. We'll close the first lane at 6 p.m. and the second at 7 p.m. Both lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. each morning. We're paving the northbound shoulder to strengthen the pavement. This work is weather-dependent, so rain could postpone these northbound I-5 closures.

On Wednesday night, Feb. 2, we'll close the southbound exit to S. 320<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m. to install drainage pipes that will cross underneath the ramp. We'll reopen the ramp by 5 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 3.

Single-lane closures continue Monday through Friday on Military Road between S. 304<sup>th</sup> Street and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue S. between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Drivers should expect these daily lane closures to continue over the next several weeks as we widen the I-5 bridge over Military Road.

### Why All the Walls?

You may have noticed we're building a lot of walls on this project. In fact, we're building seven new retaining walls, ranging in length from approximately 10 meters (about 30 feet) to over 300 meters (about 1,000 feet). But why are we building all these walls?

The walls we're building on the sides of I-5 take what used to be slopes and make them more vertical. That gives us more room on the freeway to extend the high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes from Military Road to south of S. 320<sup>th</sup> and to build the new direct access ramps.

We're also building walls in the median that will support the direct access ramps up to the new S. 317<sup>th</sup> bridge. The S. 317<sup>th</sup> bridge will connect the HOV lanes to Sound Transit's new Federal Way Transit Center.

## Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Tune your radio to **AM 1520** to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail Laura Johnson at [JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov).

## Sign Up!

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